

CLAIMS:

1. A process, comprising:

coating at least a portion of a surface of at least one silica particle with at least one wax, wherein said coating is carried out in at least one gas at a temperature above the melting point of said wax and below the decomposition temperature of said wax, to obtain at least one wax-coated silica particle.

2. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said gas is selected from the group consisting of air, nitrogen, argon, and a mixture thereof.

3. The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising milling said silica particle.

4. The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the milling is carried out simultaneously with the coating.

5. The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the milling is carried out prior to the coating.

6. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said temperature ranges from 40 to 200°C.

7. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said silica particle is coated with 2 to 15% by weight of wax, relative to the weight of the silica particle.

8. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said wax is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene wax, Fischer-Tropsch wax, silicone-based wax, and mixtures thereof.

9. The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising classifying said silica particle.

10. The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising classifying said wax-

coated silica particle.

11. The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising producing said silica particle by acidic precipitation.

5        12. The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising, prior to said coating, drying said silica particle.

13. The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising contacting said wax-coated silica particle with a coating composition.

14. A wax-coated silica particle, produced by the process as claimed in claim 1.

15. A matting agent, comprising at least one wax-coated silica particle produced by the process as claimed in claim 1.

16. A coating composition, comprising at least one wax-coated silica particle produced by the process as claimed in claim 1.

17. An alkyd resin, comprising at least one wax-coated silica particle produced by the process as claimed in claim 1.

15        18. A stoving paint, comprising at least one wax-coated silica particle produced by the process as claimed in claim 1.

19. A process, comprising:

20        a step for coating at least a portion of a surface of at least one silica particle with at least one wax, wherein said coating is carried out in at least one gas at a temperature above the melting point of said wax and below the decomposition temperature of said wax, to obtain at least one wax-coated silica particle.

20. A process, comprising:

a step for impregnating at least one pore of at least one silica particle with at least one wax, wherein said coating is carried out in at least one gas at a temperature above the melting point of said wax and below the decomposition temperature of said wax, to obtain at least one wax-impregnated silica particle.

5

21. A process, comprising:

impregnating at least one pore of at least one silica particle with at least one wax, wherein said impregnating is carried out in at least one gas at a temperature above the melting point of said wax and below the decomposition temperature of said wax, to obtain at least one wax-impregnated silica particle.

10